

### REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 29, 2008. Claims 1 to 21 and 59 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 20 and 21 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 17 to 19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 to 8, 10 to 16, 20, 21 and 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,724,492 (Iwase) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,956,557 (Kato). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns managing image processing based on a user's ID. In one aspect of the invention, an image processing apparatus is arranged to classify image input processes and image output processes, to be performed according to a set image processing mode, into a plurality of kinds to manage, based on a user's ID, an amount of image which has been processed in each of the plurality of kinds. Furthermore, the image processing apparatus sets, for each user's ID, an upper limit value indicating an amount of image that is allowed to be processed in each of the plurality of kinds, and is also arranged to select, from among the plurality of kinds, a kind corresponding to an image input process and a kind corresponding to an image output process, both of which are related to the set image processing mode, to display information of the managed

amount of image and the set upper limit value corresponding to at least one kind selected from among the plurality of kinds.

That is, an image processing apparatus in accordance with the present invention selects a kind of processing relating to the set image processing mode in order to display information indicating the selected kind of image processing, so that the information necessary for a user can be properly displayed. Applicant submits that this feature of the present invention is supported by the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig.33. In the illustrated embodiment of the present invention, if "COPY" is set as the image processing mode, "READ ORIGINAL NUMBER COUNTER" and "OWN APPARATUS IMAGE OUTPUT NUMBER COUNTER" are selected. However, if "TRANSMISSION" is selected as the image processing mode, "READ ORIGINAL NUMBER COUNTER" and "OUTSIDE TRANSMITTED IMAGE NUMBER COUNTER" are selected.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus which includes a reading unit configured to read an image on an original and generate image data based on the read image; an image forming unit configured to form an image on a recording medium; a communication unit configured to transmit and receive image data through a communication medium; a first managing unit configured to manage a user by an ID (identification) capable of specifying the user; a first setting unit configured to set an image processing mode from among a plurality of image processing modes; a control unit configured to control the reading unit or the communication unit in order to perform an image input process, and to control the image forming unit or the communication unit in order to perform an image output process, according to the image processing mode set by the first setting unit; a second managing

unit configured to classify each of the image input processes and the image output processes into a plurality of kinds, and to manage, with respect to each of the IDs, an amount of image which has been processed in each of the plurality of kinds; a second setting unit configured to set, with respect to each of the IDs, an upper limit value indicating an amount of image that is allowed to be processed in each of the plurality of kinds; and a selecting unit configured to select, from among the plurality of kinds, a kind corresponding to an image input process and a kind corresponding to an image output process, both the kind corresponding to the image input process and the kind corresponding to the image output process being related to the image processing mode set by the first setting unit; a display control unit configured to display information indicating the managed amount of image and the upper limit value corresponding to at least one kind selected by the selecting unit on a display unit.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, namely Iwase and Kato, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the apparatus of Claim 1. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of selecting, from among a plurality of kinds, a kind corresponding to an image input process and a kind corresponding to an image output process, both the kind corresponding to the image input process and the kind corresponding to the image output process being related to a set image processing mode and displaying information indicating a managed amount of image and an upper limit value corresponding to at least one selected kind on a display.

In contrast to the present invention, Iwase merely discloses that image data is received and stored together with a user ID. When the stored image data is printed, the density, the number of copies and the like are set based on the user ID via a control panel.

However, Iwase does not disclose or suggest the features of selecting, from among a plurality of kinds, a kind corresponding to an image input process and a kind corresponding to an image output process, both the kind corresponding to the image input process and the kind corresponding to the image output process being related to a set image processing mode and displaying information indicating a managed amount of image and an upper limit value corresponding to at least one selected kind on a display.

Furthermore, while Kato may disclose setting the upper limit value that indicates an amount of image data that is allowed to be processed, Kato does not disclose or suggest selecting from among the plurality of kinds, a kind corresponding to an image input process and a kind corresponding to an image output process, both of which are related to the set image processing mode, as clearly recited in amended Claim 1.

Therefore, neither Iwase nor Kato, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the selecting unit functioning together with the display control unit on the basis of the set image processing mode, as clearly recited in amended Claim 1. In light of these deficiencies of Iwase and Kato, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claims 20 and 21 are method medium claims corresponding to independent Claim 1, respectively, and have been amended in a manner similar to amended independent Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant submits that the discussion from above in support of Claim 1 applies as well to amended independent Claims 20 and 21. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 20 and 21 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the

same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

### CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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